

on-Tweed, by Mr. George Bolam—a valuable supplement to Mr. Muirhead's 'Birds of Berwickshire.' Mr. A. H. Evans has some notes on the ornithology of West Ross-shire, and Mr. Robert Service a short paper on migration in the Solway district.

70. 'The Auk.' January & April 1896.

The first number of our contemporary opens with a sympathetic *In Memoriam* of G. N. Lawrence, by Mr. D. G. Elliot. Mr. F. M. Chapman gives a plate of *Ardetta neoxena*, and expresses his opinion that the bird is quite distinct from *A. exilis*. Mr. O. W. Knight has a paper on *Pinicola enucleator* in captivity, and there are several other contributions respecting this bird since the invasion of 1892-3. Mr. A. W. Anthony describes a Woodpecker belonging to the "*harrisi-hyloscopus*" group, *Dryobates villosus montanus*, subsp. nov., from the Uintah Mountains; and Mr. Gerrit S. Miller, Jun., accords specific rank to *Aphelocoma gracilis*, from the Sierra Bolaños, Jalisco, Mexico. A new subspecies of Warbler, *Compsothlypis americana usneæ*, from Lake Umbagog, Maine, and a new Finch, *Melospiza fasciata merrilli*, subsp. n., from Idaho, are described by Mr. W. Brewster. It is satisfactory to learn from Mr. G. H. Mackay's report that since the Terns and the Laughing Gulls have been protected on Muskeget Island their numbers have largely increased.

The coloured frontispiece to the April number illustrates a paper by Mr. W. Palmer on *Speotyto floridana*, and two woodcuts show the arrangement of the burrows made by this Ground-Owl. Mr. F. A. Lucas's article on the "Taxonomic Value of the Tongue in Birds" is, to a great extent, a reply to some criticisms by Dr. J. A. Allen, who contributes an editorial rejoinder. Miss Florence A. Merriam, who described the nesting-habits of *Phainopepla nitens* in the January number, now contributes some interesting notes on the birds observed in San Diego county, California. Mr. Abbott H. Thayer discourses at some length on the law that underlies protective coloration, which he states to be:—"Animals

are painted by nature, darkest on those parts which tend to be most lighted by the sky's light, and *vice versa*." This is illustrated by a diagram and nine figures from photographs: the most successful of these being no. 8, which is said to represent an American Woodcock on its nest, but in which our eyes have failed to detect any bird whatever. *Otocorys alpestris hoyti*, *Melospiza fasciata juddi*, and *Chordeiles virginianus sennetti* are three new subspecies from Northern Dakota, described by Mr. Louis B. Bishop; while Mr. G. K. Cherric finds another new subspecies in *Chordeiles virginianus asseriensis*, from San José, Costa Rica. Mr. Witmer Stone straightens out, in his way, the group of Great Horned Owls, and distinguishes a large form from the Great Plains as *Bubo virginianus occidentalis*. An important and critical notice of the 'Birds of Heligoland,' from the pen of Dr. J. A. Allen, deserves attention, for that writer has borne strongly upon several points which many ornithologists on this side of the Atlantic have none the less noticed, but about which, for obvious reasons, they did not care to speak so freely. Connected with this subject are two papers by Mr. F. M. Chapman, and one by Dr. Allen, in the Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; and respecting these Saunders would have written a few words, if he could have obtained the last sheet of Dr. Allen's paper before leaving for the Spanish Pyrenees. But the topic, and its treatment by American naturalists, will not be forgotten by the early autumn, and can afford to wait.

71. *Beal on the Crow Blackbirds and their Food.*

[The Crow Blackbirds and their Food. By F. E. L. Beal. U.S. Depart. Agricult.; Ornith. & Mamm., Bulletin No. 6, p. 233.]

"Crow Blackbird" sounds strange in Europe, but in North America is the well-known name of certain Grackles of the genus *Quiscalus*, which are among the most familiar and conspicuous birds in the Eastern United States and Mississippi Valley. The present essay relates to the Purple Grackle, *Q. quiscula*, and its two subspecies, *Q. q. aeneus* and *Q. q. aglaus* (according to the nomenclature of the American ornithologists), and to the nature of their food. To ascertain

this, 2258 specimens were carefully examined, and it was found that the contents of their stomachs were, on the average, about half animal matter and half vegetable. Of the animal component twenty-three twenty-fourths are insects, and of these five-sixths are of noxious species. The final verdict is, therefore, that upon the whole Crow Blackbirds are so useful that no general war of extermination should be waged against them. While it must be admitted that at times they injure crops, such depredations can usually be prevented. On the other hand, by destroying insects they do incalculable good.

72. *Beal on the Food of Woodpeckers.*

[Preliminary Report on the Food of Woodpeckers. By F. E. L. Beal. U.S. Dept. of Agricult. ; Ornith. & Mamm., Bulletin No. 7, p. 7.]

Dr. Merriam has set one of his staff to work on the food of the Woodpeckers generally, and here we have a preliminary report on the results of his investigations. This is based on the examination of the stomachs of 679 specimens belonging to seven species of the Eastern U.S. The crimes alleged against Woodpeckers are that they destroy trees by "sucking sap," and make depredations on fruit and grain. One species, the Red-head (*Melanerpes formicivorus*), has in some localities developed a most abnormal taste. It is said to enter poultry-houses and suck the eggs, and to prick holes in the nests of the cave-swallows to get at their contents. Another species of *Melanerpes* (*M. erythrocephalus*) is commonly known in Florida as the "Orange-borer," and does a certain amount of damage in the orange-groves. But, as will be seen by Prof. Beal's careful tables of percentages, all the Woodpeckers eat a large amount of animal food consisting mainly of insects (though in one case the bones of a frog (!) were detected), and they may be fairly classed as doing a great deal more good than harm.

73. *Boucard's 'Humming Bird.'*

[The Humming Bird ; a Quarterly Scientific, Artistic, and Industrial Review. Edited by A. Boucard. Vols. II.-V. 8vo. London, 1892-95.]

'The Humming Bird,' of which we noticed the first volume

in 1892 (Ibis, p. 349), is now complete in five volumes, and the Editor has kindly sent us a complete set.

The most important ornithological article in this Miscellany is Mr. Boucard's "Genera of Humming Birds," which was commenced in part i. of vol. ii. (1892), and is brought to a conclusion in part iv. of vol. v. (1895). It contains descriptions of 539 species, and adds 13 others in an Appendix. Mr. Boucard makes a new system, and divides the Order Trochili into 18 families. The following genera are described as new:—

Gmelinius (iv. p. 108), type *Thalurania wagleri* (Less.); *Lawrencius* (iv. p. 173), type *Thaumatias cupreiceps*, ScL. et Salv.; *Warszewiczia* (v. p. 224), type *Heliotrypha viola*, Gould; and *Alcidius* (v. p. 345), type *Orthorhynchus estella* (d'Orb.).

The following Humming-birds are described as new species:—

Vol. II. *Phaetornis rupurumii*, *Formicivora stictocorypha*, *Heliodoxa berlepschi*, *Heliotrypha simoni*, *Heliangelus rothschildi*, *Erioenemis albogularis*, *Chlorostilbon speciosa*, *Saucerottia nunezi*, *Uranomitra columbiana*, *Phaethornis panamensis*, *Homophania lawrencei*, *Lophornis hawxwelli*.

Vol. III. *Metalura peruviana*, *Lesbia æquatorialis*, *Oreotrochilus bolivianus*, *Hylocharis brasiliensis*, *Amazilia forreri*, *Saucerottia wellsii*, *Uranomitra whitelyi*, *Agyrtia speciosa*, *Chrysornis buckleyi*, *Phaethornis garleppi*, *Hemistephanus guianensis*.

Vol. IV. *Chlorostilbon wiedi*.

Vol. V. *Glaucis voraimeæ*, *Glaucis rojasi*, *Eremita whitelyi*, *Polyerata rosenbergi*, *Glaucis columbiana*.

In a List of Birds collected by M. Hardy at Porto Real, eighty miles from Rio in the interior, prepared by Mr. Boucard and Count Berlepsch (II. B. ii. p. 41), 74 species are enumerated, and one, *Formicivora stictocorypha*, is described as new.

Mr. Boucard's "Travels of a Naturalist," which record his numerous adventures in foreign countries, will be found to contain many interesting passages.

74. Bruun on the Birds of South Greenland.

[Ornithologiske Iagttagelser fra Sydgrønland i Sommeren 1894. Af Daniel Bruun. Vidensk. Meddel. Kjöbenhavn, 1895, p. 175.]

Herr Bruun's notes contain the results of his observations made during a visit to the district of Juliane-haab in the summer of 1891 for archaeological purposes. They relate to 30 species.

75. *Büttikofer on Phasianus ignitus and its Allies.*

[On *Phasianus ignitus* and its nearest Allies. By Dr. J. Büttikofer. Notes Leyden Mus. xvii. p. 169.]

Following Mr. Elliot, Mr. Ogilvie Grant, in his catalogue of the Game-birds in the British Museum, united *Euplocamus nobilis*, Selater, to *E. ignitus* (Lath.). Mr. Büttikofer now shows that this was incorrect, and that there are probably four species of this genus of Phasianidæ, which, following Mr. Grant, he calls *Lophura*—namely, *L. ignita*, *L. nobilis*, *L. sumatrana*, and *L. vicilloti*. Unfortunately the exact habitat of *L. ignita* is not known, and there are other dark questions to be cleared up concerning this group of Pheasants.

76. *Chapman on Ardetta neoxena.*

[The Standing of *Ardetta neoxena*. By Frank M. Chapman. The Auk, xiii. p. 11.]

Mr. Chapman has made a careful study of the curious little Heron described by Mr. Cory in 1886 from a specimen obtained in Florida, and named *Ardetta neoxena*. About 15 specimens of it are at present known, some of which vary considerably *inter se*. *A. neoxena* has been supposed to be a colour-phase of *A. exilis*. Mr. Chapman proves that this view cannot be safely maintained, although he does not profess to be able to explain the unusual degree of variation in the specimens. *Ardetta neoxena* must therefore remain as a valid species.

77. *Elliot on two new Ptarmigans*

[Descriptions of an apparently new Species and Subspecies of Ptarmigan from the Aleutian Islands. By D. G. Elliot, F.R.S.E. Auk, xiii. p. 24.]

Lagopus evermanni is described as a new species from Attu Island, "one of the Near-Island group," about 1400 miles

west of Unalaska. It is "apparently most nearly allied to *L. rupestris nelsoni* of Unalaska and the Shumagin Islands, but distinguished from all the Ptarmigans of the western hemisphere by its entire white and black plumage." *Lagopus rupestris townsendi* is a new subspecies from Kyska and Adak Islands of the Aleutian chain.

78. *Finsch on the Avifauna of New Zealand.*

[Charakteristik der Avifauna Neu-Seelands, als zoogeographische Provinz, in ihren Veränderungen und deren Ursachen. Von Dr. O. Finsch. 'Globus,' Band lxxix. Nr. 2 bis 4, 1896.]

This is a popular essay on the Avifauna of New Zealand, written by our friend Dr. Finsch for the geographical journal 'Der Globus.' The author treats of the remarkable extinct forms first, and then of the existing avifauna. We observe that the two illustrations of birds introduced in the text are both copies of woodcuts prepared by Mr. Smit for works published in this country. We think that the source from which they were taken might have been acknowledged.

79. *Fisher on Hawks and Owls considered agriculturally.*

[Hawks and Owls, from the Standpoint of the Farmer. By A. K. Fisher, M.D. Reprinted from the Year-book of the U.S. Dept. of Agricult. 1894, p. 215.]

We are always glad to receive fresh evidence as to the evil effects of upsetting the balance of nature by the destruction of birds of prey, and could wish this subject were as well put before us in this country as it is in America. We fully agree with Dr. Fisher that "Hawks and Owls are mostly beneficial." There are, no doubt, occasional exceptions, but whatever gamekeepers may do, farmers should carefully preserve all of them. As regards the land, the little evil they do is far exceeded by the good.

80. *Hartlaub on Birds recently Extinct or likely to become so.*

[Ein Beitrag zur Geschichte der ausgestorbenen Vögel der Neuzeit sowie derjenigen deren Fortbestehen bedroht erscheint. Von Dr. G. Hartlaub. Abh. naturw. Ver. Bremen, xiv. Heft 1.]

Our Foreign Member and much valued contributor, Dr. G.

Hartlaub, the Nestor of European ornithologists, as he may now well be called, sends us a copy of a second and revised edition of his essay on birds that have recently become extinct, and on those the continued existence of which seems to be seriously threatened. We have already noticed the first edition of this excellent memoir (*Ibis*, 1895, p. 494), but we must say a few words about the second, with which, our friend writes us, he hopes "to make an honourable exit from the ornithological forum." We trust, however, that we may receive many more contributions to our science from Dr. Hartlaub's pen.

It was remarked before, as regards species threatened with extinction or nearly extinct, of which Dr. Hartlaub includes 20 in his list, that our American friends seem to have been a little premature in placing some of their birds in this category. It is certain that a number of Carolina Parakeets (*Conurus carolinensis*) have lately been imported into Europe and sold by the dealers at a few shillings each*. Examples of this bird are in the Zoological Society's Parrot-house. Moreover, those who study the 'Auk' will learn that the Californian Vulture (*Pseudogryphus californianus*) is still by no means rare in some localities of the Far West—a recent observer having seen 26 of these birds in the air at one time in the Sierra Nevada. Of actually extinct birds of the present period, Dr. Hartlaub mentions 26, some of which (sc. *Foudia bruante* and *Nestor norfolciensis*) are not represented in any museum, and are known only from descriptions.

As regards the Great Auk (*Alca impennis*), Dr. Hartlaub tells us that two geologists lately at work near Falsterbo, in Southern Sweden, discovered in some loam-deposits in the middle of remains of Arctic plants a hollow cast of an egg of the size and shape of the egg of this bird, upon the walls of which were some pieces of eggshell. The dark spots on the inner surface of these fragments correspond well, as testified by Prof. Steenstrup, with the well-known markings of the

* [A correspondent writing from Kissimmee, Florida, says:—"There have been some men here from the Smithsonian Institution, who have carried back several hundred skins of the Parakeet with them."—EDD.]

eggs of *Alca impennis*. There can be little doubt, therefore, that an egg of the Gare-fowl had been dropped here in former days.

In conclusion we may say that Dr. Hartlaub's whole essay is of the most interesting nature to ornithologists and merits their careful study. The text and the numerous footnotes alike are crammed throughout with curious information upon rare birds.

81. *Loomis on Californian Water-Birds.*

[California Water-Birds. By Leverett M. Loomis. Proc. Cal. Acad. Sc. ser. 2, vol. v. pp. 179-224 (1895), and vol. vi. pp. 1-30 (Feb. 21st, 1896).]

The former of these interesting papers contains an account of the author's observations on the water-birds which frequent the coast of Monterey from the middle of June to the end of August. Migration southward had begun by June 14th, and subsequently increased, as might be expected, but subject to considerable fluctuations. The Long-tailed Skua was obtained on August 23rd, apparently for the first time in California. The second paper relates to observations made in mid-winter, when a great feature was the migration—by thousands—of Black-vented Shearwaters (*Puffinus opisthomelas*) on their way, as indicated by the condition of their organs of reproduction, to some breeding-place, which Mr. Loomis thinks may be in the temperate zone of the southern hemisphere. Both papers are illustrated by maps. Our Old-World *Larus canus*, now said to be common on that coast in winter, had already been reported (with a note of interrogation) from Southern California by Mr. Henshaw.

82. *Lorenz-Liburnau on a new Dendrocolaptine Bird.*

[Ueber einen vermuthlich neuen Dendrocolaptiden. Von Dr. Ludwig von Lorenz-Liburnau. Verh. k.-k. zool.-bot. Gesell. Wien, xlv. p. 363, and Ann. k.-k. naturh. Hofmuseums, xi. Heft 1.]

Dr. L. v. Lorenz-Liburnau bases a new species of the Dendrocolaptine genus *Dendrexetastes* on a specimen obtained on June 30th, 1888, near Pará, in Brazil, and proposes to

name it *D. paraensis*. It has been compared with four examples of *D. temmincki* in different museums. A coloured figure of the new species, of the natural size, is added.

83. *Lucas on the Tongues of North-American Woodpeckers.*

[The Tongues of Woodpeckers. By F. A. Lucas. U.S. Dept. of Agricult.; Ornith. & Mamm., Bulletin No. 7, p. 35.]

In connection with the investigation carried on by the Agricultural Department of the U.S. Government on the food of Woodpeckers (see Prof. Beal's report above noticed, p. 408), Mr. Lucas has examined the tongues of 12 species of this family, and now describes and figures them. Although there is a general resemblance, there is a large amount of variation in details, and the conclusion is arrived at that the modifications of the tongue in the Woodpeckers "are directly related to the character of the food, and are not of value for classification."

84. *Meyer and Wigglesworth on Birds from North-east Celebes, Peling, and Banggai.*

[Eine Vogelsammlung von Nordost Celébes und den Inseln Peling und Banggai. Von A. B. Meyer und L. W. Wigglesworth. Abhandl. u. Ber. k. zool. u. anthrop. Mus. Dresden, 1896-97, No. 2.]

The Dresden Museum has lately received a considerable collection of bird-skins from the eastern peninsula of Celebes and the adjacent islands Peling and Banggai, which are shown in a chart attached to this memoir. There are 58 species from East Celebes, 50 from Peling, and 43 from Banggai represented in it. The following species and subspecies are described as new:—*Loriculus sclateri ruber*, from Peling and Banggai; *Pyrrhucator celebensis rufescens*, from E. Celebes; *Pelargopsis dichrorhynchus*, from Peling and Banggai; *Monachalcyon capucinus*, from E. Celebes; *Hermotimia porphyrolæma scapulata*, from E. Celebes; *Zosterops subatrifrons*, from Peling; *Ptilopus subgularis*, from Peling and Banggai. It is shown in a series of tables that the avifauna of Peling and Banggai, although the strait that

separates Peling from Celebes is barely 20 kil. in width, belongs essentially to that of the Sula Islands, which lie to the east, and at a much greater distance.

85. *North on Zosterops cærulescens.*

[On the Seasonal Changes in the Plumage of *Zosterops cærulescens*. By Alfred J. North, F.L.S. Records Austral. Mus. ii. p. 98.]

Mr. North shows clearly that the *Zosterops westernensis* of Quoy & Gaimard, the type of which was obtained by them at Western Port, Victoria, was based on the spring and summer attire of *Z. cærulescens*. He also points out that *Z. tephropleura*, Gould, of Lord Howe Island, associated by Dr. Sharpe with *Z. westernensis*, is a good species, and that *Z. ramsayi*, Masters, from Queensland, also considered by Dr. Sharpe as probably identical with *Z. westernensis*, is a distinct species, to be recognized by the olive-yellow under tail-coverts.

86. *North's 'Oological Notes.'*

[Oological Notes. By Alfred J. North, F.L.S. Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, ser. 2, vol. x. p. 215.]

Mr. North describes the eggs of the following Australian species:—*Eudynamis cyanocephala* (from the nest of *Mimeta viridis*), *Megalurus galactotes*, *Platulea melanorhyncha*, and *Ardetta pusilla*. The Black-faced Spoonbill was found breeding in a swamp on the River Murray, in company with the Australian White Ibis, *Thresciornis strictipennis*.

87. *North on Chlamydodera orientalis.*

[Notes on *Chlamydodera orientalis*, Gould. By Alfred J. North, F.L.S. Victorian Naturalist, xii. p. 104.]

The eggs of the Eastern Lilac-naped Bower-bird are described and figured from specimens obtained in the Gulf District of Northern Queensland in August 1895. Further particulars are given about the range of this eastern representative of *Chlamydodera nuchalis*, and about the curious objects which it selects for the ornamentation of its bower, amongst which bones are conspicuous.

88. *Noska and Tschusi zu Schmidhoffen on the Caucasian Snow-Partridge.*

[Das kaukasische Königshuhn (*Tetraogallus caucasicus*, Pall.). Eine monographische Studie von Max Noska unter Mitwirkung von Victor, Ritter von Tschusi zu Schmidhoffen. Separatabdr. aus 'Ornith. Jahrb.' vii. 1896.]

This is a pendant to the excellent treatise on the Black-cock of the Caucasus (*Tetrao mlokosieviczi*) of the same authors published last year (see *Ibis*, 1896, p. 277), and, like its precursor, has been prepared and edited by Victor, Ritter zu Schmidhoffen, from the notes of Max Noska. Noska, who has since unfortunately lost his life, was "Jagd-leiter" to one of the Russian Grand Dukes, who have extensive shooting-rights in the Caucasus, and had thus good opportunities of becoming acquainted with this noble bird. Of these he appears to have availed himself very successfully, as the account of the habits of this inhabitant of the Caucasian mountain-summits is very thorough and complete. The best mode of shooting the *Tetraogallus*, which is only permitted in the months of October and November, is also described. As the bird is not found below the level of 7000 feet, the chase of it appears to be by no means an easy task.

89. *Rotzell on the Birds of Narberth, Pennsylvania.*

[Birds of Narberth, Pa., and Vicinity. By W. E. Rotzell, M.D. 8vo. 1895.]

Dr. Rotzell reprints a list of the birds he has noticed near Narberth, in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, originally prepared for a newspaper—"The Citizen." It contains 108 species, on which short notes are given. We observe that the Turkey-Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) is included as a "summer resident," and that nests are often met with.

90. *Salvadori on Loria's Collections in Eastern Papuasias.*

[Viaggio di Lamberto Loria nella Papuasias Orientale.—XV. Collezioni Ornitologiche descritte da Tommaso Salvadori. Nota quarta: Uccelli della Nuova Guinea Meridionale-Orientale. Ann. Mus. Civ. Stor. Nat. Genova, ser. 2, xvi. p. 55.]

Count Salvadori's fourth treatise on the birds collected by Dr. Lamberto Loria gives us an account of two collections made by that distinguished traveller in various localities on the coast of South-eastern New Guinea in 1891, 1892, and 1893. These collections contain altogether 774 specimens, which are referred to 187 species. Five of these have been already described as new in 1894 (*cf.* *Ibis*, 1894, p. 563), and 11 more are characterized in the present memoir.

Count Salvadori points out that the fauna of Moroka, a mountainous region, formerly visited by Goldie, is different from that of the adjoining coast-lands. In this district only are found such rare and beautiful Paradise-birds as *Paradisornis rudolphi*, *Parotia lawesi*, *Lophorhina minor*, and *Loria lorice*.

The study of Loria's specimens has enabled Count Salvadori to identify several of the new species lately described by Mr. De Vis from Sir William Macgregor's collections*. Besides the Paradise-birds already mentioned, a fine adult male example of the rare *Casuaris picticollis*, Sel., was obtained in Moroka.

The species described as new in the present paper are:—

<i>Syma megarhyncha</i> .	<i>Sericornis perspicillata</i> .
<i>Ægotheles rufescens</i> .	— <i>olivacea</i> .
<i>Monarcha heterurus</i> .	<i>Eupetes lorice</i> .
<i>Gerygone giulianettii</i> .	<i>Manucodia orientalis</i> .
<i>Pachycephala sharpei</i> .	<i>Diphylloides xanthoptera</i> .
<i>Euthyrhynchus meyeri</i> .	

91. *Salvadori on Birds from Somaliland and Gallaland.*

[Uccelli raccolti da Don Eugenio dei Principi Ruspoli durante l'ultimo suo viaggio nelle regioni dei Somali e dei Galla. Nota di T. Salvadori. *Ann. Mus. Civ. Genova*, ser. 2, xvi, p. 43.]

Don Eugenio dei Principi Ruspoli, as is well known, lost his life during his second exploring journey in Eastern Africa, in an encounter with an elephant near Lake Bissan Abbaia,

* 'Report on Ornithological Specimens collected in New Guinea.' By C. W. De Vis, 1894. (Noticed in *Ibis*, 1895, p. 280.) "On the Bower-bird recently described by C. W. De Vis as *Cnemophilus marice*." By P. L. Sclater. *Ibis*, 1895, p. 343.

north-east of Lake Stephanie, on the 4th of December, 1893. Count Salvadori gives us here a list of the birds obtained by Count Ruspoli during this expedition. They were 35 in number, belonging to 32 species. Unfortunately the skins are not in good condition, and have no exact localities attached to them. Three species are described as new, namely, *Turacus ruspolii*, *Serinus xantholema*, and *Hyphantornis dicrocephala*. The occurrence of *Grus carunculata* so far north is a new fact in distribution. Sir H. H. Johnston has lately obtained it in Nyasaland, and Reichenow has included it in his list of the Birds of German East Africa.

92. Sharpe's 'Handbook to the Birds of Great Britain.'

[Allen's Naturalist's Library. Edited by R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D., F.L.S., &c. A Handbook to the Birds of Great Britain. By R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D., Assistant Keeper, Sub-Department of Vertebrata, Zoological Department, British Museum. Vol. III. London: W. H. Allen & Co., 1896.]

The third volume of Dr. Sharpe's 'Handbook' finishes the Ducks, and then proceeds to the Herons, Cranes, and Waders (as generally termed). It contains altogether an account of 92 species, which are referred to 70 genera, giving an average of about 1.3 species to each genus, which seems rather a meagre allowance. Going on at this rate we shall soon find our species to coincide in number with our genera.

It is quite possible that *Totanus stagnatilis* may have occurred in this country, but the evidence given by Dr. Sharpe of its having done so appears to us to be hardly sufficient.

We observe that Dr. Sharpe quotes amongst his synonyms the 24th and 26th volumes of the 'Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum.' These volumes are not yet published, although we hope to have the pleasure of seeing them out before the end of the present year. It would have been better, we think, to have noticed this fact in the preface, as it may be argued hereafter that they must have been published before the present volume was issued. Although, as we have now and previously stated, we cannot agree to

Dr. Sharpe's nomenclature, we are fully persuaded that the 'Handbook' has many merits, and have no doubt that it will acquire a large circulation. It is illustrated by 35 plates.

93. Sharpe's 'Monograph of the Paradiseidæ.'

[Monograph of the *Paradiseidæ*, or Birds of Paradise, and *Ptilonorhynchidæ*, or Bower-Birds. By R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D., F.L.S., &c. Part V. Folio. London: H. Sotheran & Co., 1895.]

The fifth part of Dr. Sharpe's beautiful monograph, issued last year, which appears to have escaped our notice, contains figures of the following species :—

Drepanornis albertisi.	Parotia sexpennis.
Semioptera wallacii.	Sericulus melinus.
Trichoparadisea gulielmi.	Ælurœdus maculosus.
Diphyllodes hunsteini.	— geislerorum.
Lophorhina minor.	Lycocorax morotensis.

Trichoparadisea gulielmi is certainly a splendid bird, and we are glad to see a good picture of it. But we cannot agree with Dr. Sharpe in thinking that Dr. Meyer was right in making it the type of a new genus. In our eyes it is a very good *Paradisea*, to all intents and purposes.

94. Shelley's 'Birds of Africa.'

[The Birds of Africa, comprising all the Species which occur in the Ethiopian Region. By G. E. Shelley, F.Z.S., F.R.G.S., &c. Vol. I. R. H. Porter, 1896.]

A most useful book, we are quite sure, will Capt. Shelley's volume on the birds of Africa be found by all ornithologists who have to deal with the *Ornis Æthiopica*. It contains a complete list of the birds of Africa south of the Atlas and the First Cataract of the Nile, including those of Madagascar and its islands—that is, of the birds known to the author; and he knows them well, having devoted his studies mainly to the *Ornis* of Africa for the last 30 years. Besides the authority for each name, references are given to the first description

and to the best figures. The *patria* is indicated only by a letter, stating in which of the five subregions into which the author divides the whole avifauna the species is found.

The number of species enumerated in the list is 2534, of which 1449 are Passeres.

There seem to be only three species described as new, namely, *Textor senegalensis* (p. 34), *Chlorocichla mombasa* (p. 64), and *C. zambesiæ* (p. 64).

The following new generic terms are introduced:—*Clytospiza* (p. 32), type *Pytelia monteiri*, Hartl.; *Pachyphantes* (p. 36), type *Hyphantornis superciliosus*, Shelley; *Neshyphantes* (p. 36), type *Foudia flavicans*, Newt.; *Othyphantes* (p. 37), type *Sycobrotus reichenowi*, Finsch; *Rhodornis* (p. 67), type *Pholidornis rubrifrons*, Sharpe & Ussher.

We are pleased to see that Capt. Shelley does not object to correct orthographical errors in nomenclature, and we venture to point out several cases in which he has inadvertently passed over what are obvious mistakes of this character. "*Coliipasser*" (p. 23) should be "*Coliopasser*"; "*Phileterus*" (p. 27) should be "*Philetærus*"; "*Neshyphantes*" (p. 36) should be "*Nesyphantes*," the aspirate being omitted in composition, and the same is the case with "*Othyphantes*" (p. 37); *Nicator* (p. 57) is no doubt a mistake for "*Necator*," a slayer.

In placing *Hypocolius* under the Sturninæ, we do not think Capt. Shelley has quite hit on its real affinities. It is, no doubt, an isolated form, but apparently more allied to the Laniidæ and Campephagidæ than to the Starlings. There is certainly nothing Starling-like in its demeanour or mode of nesting, as may be seen by observation of the living specimens in the Zoological Society's Parrot-house.

We do not profess to understand Capt. Shelley's classification, nor why the Penguins are placed between the Petrels and Flamingoes, but this will, no doubt, be explained to us in the next volume of the 'Birds of Africa.'